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# TIMES

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 34

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Page 2



Blooming hosts

Page 4



Lake concert

## County sends letter to province

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council voted to approve a letter signed by Reeve Amber Link to be sent to Alberta Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services, Jason Nixon.

The discussion regarding the letter took place during the Aug. 15 regular meeting of Wheatland County council, in closed session, before the approval was voted on publicly.

Once the vote was passed, the letter was made publicly available via the Wheatland County website. It details concerns from the county regarding the Wheatland Housing Management Body.

Discussions regarding the letter were held in closed session due to concerns of potential for disclosure being harmful to intergovernmental relations.

County administration suggested in open session the potential harm to intergovernmental relations may have been destructive at all levels of government, including with municipalities the county regularly interacts with, as well as with the province.

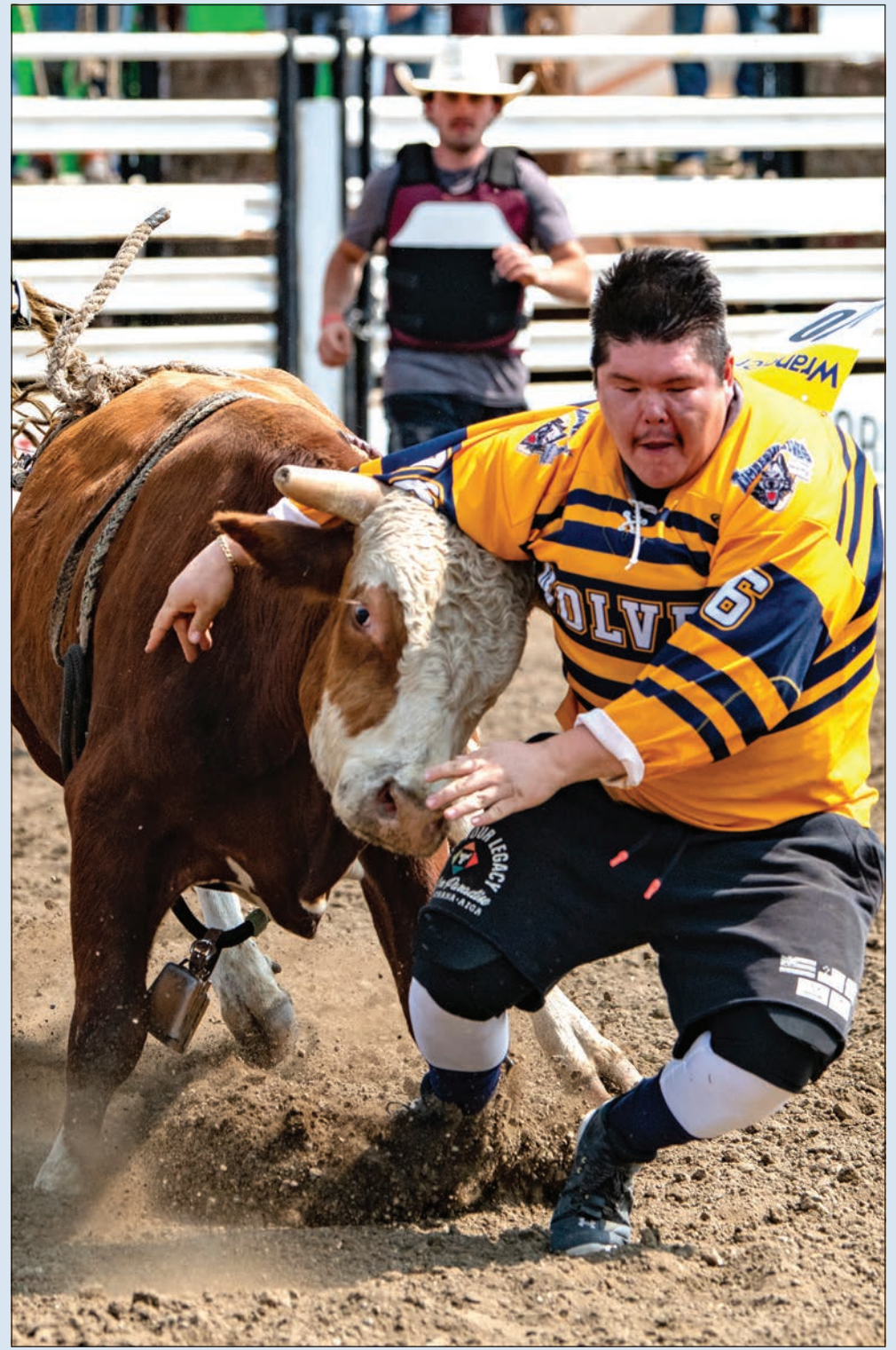
Councillors Rick Laursen and Glenn Koester expressed opposition to holding the discussion in camera, but were defeated in a vote to remain in open session.

The county's letter to Nixon details 13 concerns regarding governance practices of the Wheatland Housing Management Body.

"The issues highlighted underscore an urgent need for an external review and, if necessary, an intervention to ensure that good governance principles are upheld," stated the county in the letter. "We trust in the commitment of the Government of Alberta to enhance the quality and effectiveness of governance across all public entities and eagerly await your response."

The county explains in its letter the goal is to uphold transparency, accountability, and the best interests of the community, believing it imperative to ensure good governance practices within any public entity.

*Continued on Page 4*



## School of hard knocks!

Students of the bull fighting class during the annual rodeo school had an eye-popping experience as they got in the ring with an actual bull. The rodeo school, put on by the Strathmore and District Agricultural Society, featured classes for many rodeo events. See Page 10 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

### STRATHMORE TIMES

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# SHS, Communities in Bloom host Lacombe Garden Club

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Lacombe Garden Club was hosted at the Strathmore High School greenhouse by Communities in Bloom, Aug. 15, for a tour of the developed facility.

Jennifer Neufeld, chair of Communities in Bloom, said the Lacombe High School Eco-Vision Club, and Strathmore Garden Club were also in attendance for the tour to learn about the greenhouse.

“It is kind of a meeting of like minds just to get together and have a tour of the space and hear the story that got us to where we are today, which started with Cole Hintz,” said Neufeld. “The Lacombe group wanted to do a tour and connected with Cole, and because I am involved with helping out

watering here through Communities in Bloom, I thought that might be a great way to get our organization involved... and collaborate with other people.”

The building was completed in June 2022, and Strathmore High School students have since been working to build out both the interior and exterior of the facility.

Neufeld added that several school groups have been utilizing the greenhouse to explore and learn about horticulture.

“Lots of school groups come in through the school year and try planting things ... there are lots of opportunities for different groups to be involved,” she said. “Earlier this spring, we did a permaculture design course that taught participants, which included students from the school as well as community members, and some of



Communities in Bloom and the Strathmore High School hosted the Lacombe Garden Club at the geodesic greenhouse on the high school campus, Aug. 15. The Lacombe Garden Club had requested a tour of the student-built facility to learn more about its construction and operational systems.

John Watson Photo

our members from Communities in Bloom, on how to connect elements within a space.”

This included topics such as materials for compost, utilizing space to collect rainwater, and improved utilization of existing plants and infrastructure.

The greenhouse is a space that is open for the community to use, and anyone who wishes to be a part of helping to maintain it or benefit from it is welcome.

“It is a great way to build community and produce food, which is also super important in our day and age of trying to figure out food security,” said

Neufeld. “It is a unique space ... and people can just come and enjoy it. It is available to the public to just come be here and connect.”

Those who are interested in setting up a tour or beginning a collaborative project are free to reach out to either Hintz at Strathmore High School, or Neufeld through Communities in Bloom at cibstrathmore@gmail.com.

Going forward, she added there is a goal for the school, as well as Communities in Bloom to increase rainwater harvesting off of the school, onsite sheds and portables, and other surfaces in order to begin decreasing water consumption.

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# Strathmore implements outdoor water use restrictions

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Stage 1 outdoor water restrictions came into effect, Aug. 15, for water customers of the City of Calgary — including Strathmore, and will remain in effect until further notice.

“The City of Calgary has notified us that Stage 1 Outdoor Water Restrictions are in effect,” said Jamie Dugdale, director of infrastructure, operations and development services with the Town of Strathmore. “These restrictions impact activities like outdoor washing and watering, but don’t apply to recreational activities at this time.”

The City of Calgary issued the mandatory outdoor water use restrictions in response to the record low natural flow levels observed in the Bow and Elbow Rivers.

During stage one outdoor water use restrictions, the following activities are allowed, as outlined in Calgary’s Water Utility Bylaw:

- Using a sprinkler to water lawns, gardens, trees and shrubs is limited to one day per week according to a specific schedule that is determined by property address:
- Property address ending with an even number can water on Wednesday or Saturday.

- Property address ending with an odd number can water on Thursday or Sunday.

- Watering is limited to a maximum total of two hours from 4 a.m. – 10 a.m. or 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. Always check soil moisture first and use only the water that is needed.

Watering using a handheld watering can or hose with shut-off spray, watering new grass or seed, filling an outdoor pool or hot tub, use of water collected in a rain barrel, and watering for construction purposes is allowed at any day and time.

While restrictions are in effect, washing outdoor surfaces such as building sides, windows, sidewalks and driveways, as well as washing cars, or filling decorative features is not permitted.

Exceptions to this are included for health and safety reasons, for core business needs such as washing surfaces at childcare and animal care facilities, watering flora for sale, exterior washing services provided by a licensed business, as well as for food and beverage establishments.

“We encourage our community to stay cool by utilizing Strathmore’s indoor recreation facilities or the Lions Splash Park,” said Jamie Dugdale. “Additionally, a cooling station is open at the Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre. Anyone

needing shelter from the heat can attend the cooling station from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., at no cost.”

Watering times for lawns in Strathmore during Stage 1 restrictions are from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The odd and even day distribution and time limits are the same as in Calgary.

Information regarding the current drought conditions is available at [Calgary.ca/droughtinfo](http://Calgary.ca/droughtinfo), and the Town of Strathmore Water Utility Bylaw is available through the Town’s website.

# Court proceedings regarding Coun. Jason Montgomery rescheduled

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Alberta court proceedings regarding the charges against Town of Strathmore Coun. Jason Montgomery have been scheduled to next resume Sept. 19, following the Aug. 15 scheduled appearance.

This is the third time since Montgomery’s initial arrest, May 24, that court proceedings have been rescheduled.

The charges against him include Sexual Assault (Section 271), Sharing of Intimate Images Without Consent (Section 162.1, subsection 1), Extortion Without a Firearm (Section 346, subsection 1.1, b), and Criminal Harassment (Section 264).

Certified documents from the court attribute the charges against Montgomery to the following dates:

- Between Jan. 20, 2020 and Jan. 15, 2021, both dates inclusive, did knowingly commit a sexual assault
- Between June 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020, both dates inclusive, did knowingly publish, distribute, transmit, sell, make available, or advertise an intimate image, knowing the depicted individual did not give their consent
- Between Jan. 1, 2020 and Jan. 15, 2021, both dates inclusive, did without reasonable justification or excuse and with intent to obtain sex, by threats, accusations, menaces or violence induce or attempt to induce the complainant to submit to sex, thereby committing extortion.
- On or about May 6, 2023, did knowingly harass the complainant, causing the individual to

fear for their safety or the safety of people known to them.

The earliest record of proceedings at Strathmore Court of Justice regarding the charges against Montgomery is dated June 6, 2023. During these proceedings, Montgomery was not present, and court was adjourned to July 4, for a plea.

During the July 4 proceeding, Montgomery was not present, and court was adjourned at the request of the agent to request information/receive disclosure documents (OBD).

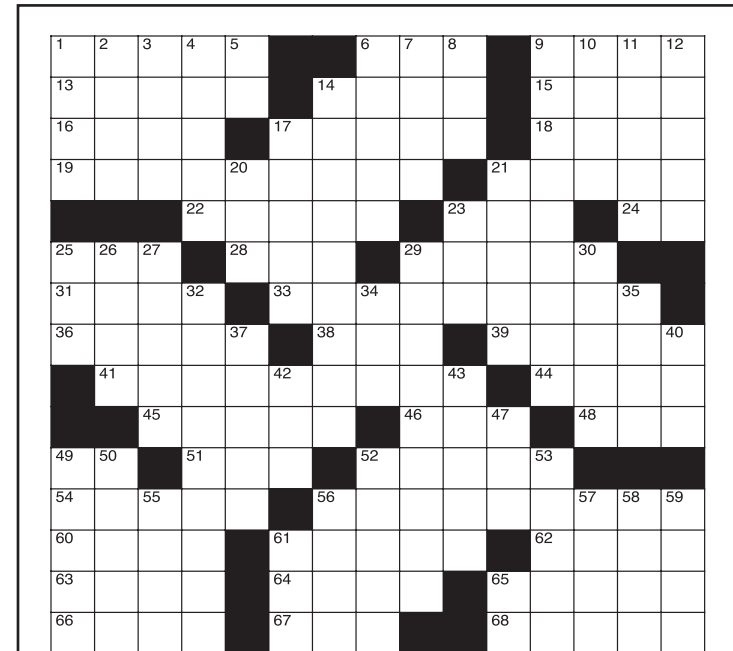
Montgomery was also not present at the Aug. 15 proceeding, which was adjourned as information obtained by a prior search warrant had been deemed ineligible.

Information is noted in an emergency protection order intake sheet, which was briefly available for public viewing by an anonymous source online, detailing the behavior Montgomery is accused of and charged with.

It is also stated via the order intake sheet, audio recordings suggested to be of Montgomery which were provided to Strathmore RCMP via a USB storage device indicate proof to the accusations.

Following his arrest and the provision of his rights by the attending officer, Montgomery is noted to have obtained council and denied the allegations.

A publication ban remains in effect to protect the identity of the complainant and any associated persons. Their identity has also been redacted from certified documents provided by the court.



### CLUES ACROSS

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Russian painter                    | 39. Once-ubiquitous department store         |
| 6. Very fast jet                      | 41. Neural structures                        |
| 9. Phillipine municipality            | 44. Thick piece of something                 |
| 13. Intestinal                        | 45. Slang for trucks with trailers           |
| 14. Small freshwater fish             | 46. Longing                                  |
| 15. Algerian coastal city             | 48. Senior officer                           |
| 16. Vomit                             | 49. Levels of frequency                      |
| 17. Famed astronomer                  | 51. Bird’s beak                              |
| 18. Ghanaian currency                 | 52. Move rapidly downwards                   |
| 19. Improved the condition of         | 54. Koran chapters                           |
| 21. Int’l association of interpreters | 56. Stretches out                            |
| 22. Infections                        | 60. Top of the human body                    |
| 23. Dish made with lentils            | 61. A Chinese temple and Indian town are two |
| 24. Thou                              | 62. Fertility god                            |
| 25. Former CIA                        | 63. Sea eagle                                |
| 28. Unit used to compare power levels | 64. Dry                                      |
| 29. Members of Pueblo people          | 65. Zodiac sign                              |
| 31. Myanmar monetary units            | 66. “Horizon Call of the Mountain” character |
| 33. Polished                          | 67. Have the ability to                      |
| 36. Signed a contract                 | 68. Take somewhere                           |
| 38. Nothing                           |  |

### CLUES DOWN

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. “Iron Man” actress Leslie        | 30. Closes tightly                        |
| 2. Wings                            | 32. Songs sung to one’s lover             |
| 3. Adjust the spacing               | 34. One thousandth of an inch             |
| 4. They’re usually locked           | 35. Small drink of whiskey                |
| 5. Atomic #43                       | 37. Political divisions in ancient Greece |
| 6. Wise individuals                 | 40. Helps little firms                    |
| 7. Horse mackerel                   | 42. Baby’s eating accessory               |
| 8. Pearl Jam’s debut album          | 43. Very long periods of time             |
| 9. Confines                         | 47. Small block of wood                   |
| 10. Colorless crystalline compound  | 49. Town in Surrey, England               |
| 11. Unsatisfactorily                | 50. Enquiry                               |
| 12. Plant of the parsley family     | 52. Murdered                              |
| 14. Determines time                 | 53. Bura-_: Chadic language               |
| 17. Causes the birth of             | 55. Crater on Mars                        |
| 20. Small ornament on a watch chain | 56. Mammal genus                          |
| 21. Richly decorated cloth tapestry | 57. Sock                                  |
| 23. Vito Corleone was one           | 58. Make                                  |
| 25. Igbo musical instrument         | 59. Stony waste matter                    |
| 26. Put in harmony                  | 61. Partner to cheese                     |
| 27. Japanese alcoholic drinks       | 65. Pound                                 |
| 29. Tinseltown                      |   |

**STRATHMORE TIMES**

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Strathmore Times is published every Wednesday by Strathmore Times Inc. and is distributed by Canada Post to Strathmore, Carseland, Cheadle, Cluny, Gleichen, Hussar, Lyalta, Namaka, Nightingale, Rockyford, Rosebud, Speargrass and Standard. We also have various pickup locations throughout our coverage area. Our 10,910 issues are printed by Star Press Inc., Wainwright, Alberta. The content in the Strathmore Times is copyright and reproduction without the proper written consent of the Strathmore Times is strictly prohibited.

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Local Journalism Initiative.

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## Parliamentary secretaries sworn in

Alberta's new parliamentary secretaries were sworn in during a ceremony at the Queen Elizabeth II building in Edmonton on Aug. 17. Chertemere/Strathmore MLA Chantelle de Jonge (third from left) was sworn in as the parliamentary secretary for affordability and utilities, which was announced on July 13.

Photo Courtesy of the Government of Alberta



## County signs letter requesting intervention regarding WHMB

Continued from Page 1

Additionally, the county states there is an urgent need for an external review and, if necessary, an intervention by the province.

Points noted within the letter include, but are not limited to, tarnishing the county's reputation, improper conduct during meetings, suppression of government concerns, and member compensation concerns.

Regarding the Wheatland Housing Management Body, Koester was sanctioned by the county earlier this year regarding a Code of Conduct Violation complaint, and was subsequently removed from his position as board chair.

Despite details of the Code of Conduct Violation complaint remaining closed within the county, Koester has challenged the county's decision and sanctions in court, which has made relevant documents and affidavits to be public knowledge.

This process remains before the courts, with the next session regarding the matter scheduled to take place in early 2024.

When County Council returned to open session from their discussion of the letter to Nixon, Koester requested a copy of the letter be forwarded to the Wheatland Housing Management Body, as well as a recorded vote.

The county's vote to approve the signing of the letter was passed 4-3, with Koester, Laursen, and Coun. Shannon Laprise in opposition.

## Loud at the Lake

Despite the poor weather, the Loud at the Lake event took place on Aug. 18 at Kinsmen Park. Various bands hit the stage all afternoon and evening, including James Strange and the Fangs playing prior to the Ultrasonic Zebras.

Joe Lepage Photos



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Thought for the Week  
~  
*There is nothing like a little gratitude to improve your attitude.*

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### Times CORRECTION

In the Aug. 16 issue (Page 6), "Strathmore among several Alberta Municipalities to benefit from online grocery service" it stated that Longo's products are available on the Voilà app. Longo's products are not available in Alberta as part of the Empire Company LTD Voilà service. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



### Home run weekend

The annual Home Run for Huntingtons took place on Aug. 19 at the Kinsmen Ball Diamonds. A charity slow pitch game and a home run derby were held to raise funds for the Huntington Society of Canada and as a fundraiser for local Greg Belton who suffers from the disease.

Joe Lepage Photos  
Group Photo  
Courtesy of  
Marlene Belton



### Preparing for the season

The Strathmore Spartans high school football team dusted off their cleats and hit the field for their first contact practice on Aug. 16. The Spartans will have eight practices before they play their first game on Aug. 26 in Medicine Hat. Their first home game is Sept. 1 (5 p.m.) at the Strathmore High School.

Joe Lepage Photos

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# Strathmore's Autumn Desjardins to compete at world's largest cosplay competition

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore's own Autumn Desjardins, along with her partner Conor Anderson, are headed to compete at the Gamers8 Cosplay Cup in Saudi Arabia, now boasting as the largest cosplay competition in the world.

The World Cosplay Summit, which previously held that distinction and is supporting the Gamers8 Cosplay Cup, hosted teams from 33 countries in Japan earlier this year.

Now, 100 teams from 45 countries have been invited to the Mohammed Abdo Arena in Riyadh Boulevard City to compete for a prize pool of more than \$100,000 USD.

"It wasn't until a couple of days ago we found out the big details about this. We found out that this conference is large enough it is going over two days because there are 45 participating countries and that makes it the largest competition in the world," said Desjardins. "That is very exciting, and then we looked at the order of appearance and we are first."

Desjardins added her goal, alongside Anderson, will be to step out on stage, set a bar to beat, and give the other teams a challenging performance to follow up to.

Among the four costumes each that they are expected to bring to the competition, Desjardins and Anderson will walk their stage performance depicting Zelda and Link, from the Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild video game.

Stepping once again onto the world stage, Desjardins said she feels Canada has something to prove and wants to show the Great White North has the chops to stand among countries such as the United States.

"I personally feel like Canada is kind of seen as a little bit of an underdog in a way because we have the United States as our neighbors and everything is bigger and better down there," she said. "I feel like we want to, when we go, we have to show that we are our own thing, and we have the chops, and we have the skill to win it."

In preparation for the Gamers8 Cosplay Cup, the duo has been working at applying advice received about their costumes from previous judging panels in order to ensure the craftsmanship they put forward is as immaculate as possible.

Beyond adjusting their costumes to be perfect, Desjardins added their on-stage performance routine needs to be changed in order to best utilize an unfamiliar stage size.

"The stage is bigger than our apartment. The stage itself is



Autumn Desjardins and Conor Anderson have been invited to represent Team Canada at the Gamers8 Cosplay Cup in Saudi Arabia, Aug. 27-28. Competing teams from 45 countries across the globe have been invited to square off at what is now the largest cosplay stage in the world.

Photo Courtesy of Autumn Desjardins

12 meters by 30 meters. It has been so hard to find places to practice," she said. "We have altered a lot of our skit because we went from the Netherlands that had a small stage to this one, which is three or four times bigger. We have had to rework our performance so we can use up as much of the stage as possible."

Judging at the competition will be split 50/50 between the craftsmanship of the costume and the performance on stage.

The Gamers8 Cosplay Cup is set to take place on Aug. 27-28. Desjardins and Anderson departed Canada Aug. 23, and will return home Aug. 31.

**YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE**  
Gord Morck Pharmacist  
**Capsule Comments**

There may be a link between strength training and brain health. There was a report in the British Journal of Sports Medicine that found that adults who engage in weight-lifting exercises at least twice weekly reduced their risk of heart disease and this effect could extend to reducing the disease of small blood vessels in the brain which might delay the onset of cognitive impairment that often occurs with aging.

Strokes are treated with a clot-busting drug to clear the clot away. There is a new treatment called *endovascular thrombectomy* (EVT) being trialed. It involves using suction to pull the stroke-causing blood clot out of the body. Preliminary use has found that positive outcomes for stroke patients increased from 20 to 55% after EVT. A reminder: strokes require fast action for better outcomes. If you feel you're having a stroke, call 911 right away.

Research is being done on the use of stem cells as a possible treatment for Type I diabetes. Training these cells to act like the insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas just might free diabetics from daily injection of insulin. This is just one of many medical uses for stem cells that the public will hear more about in coming years.


A survey of Canadian men age 40-88 found that the overall prevalence of erectile dysfunction (ED) was almost 50%. That translates into an estimated 3 million men are affected by ED. Men experiencing this problem are not alone and help is available. Talk to your doctor about it.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Concerned citizens have many questions

To the Editor

Our group has some very serious concerns about an appointed panel overturning an MPC decision by the elected Wheatland County council.

We ask, is now the time to re-examine how the Land & Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT) operates? We would ask how an appointed three-person panel can override a duly elected county council?

We would ask how the LPRT chose to overlook some very serious issues?

We wonder which Albertans, rural or urban, left or right, would condone building a formerly proposed biodigester near any site similar to the one in the picture which belongs to the applicant? The site where these dead baby calves lie is a few hundred meters from where the previously proposed biodigester was to be constructed.

We ask, which Albertans, rural or urban, would support building a proposed packing plant (abattoir) near the pictured site that belongs to the applicant? A human food processing facility just a few hundred meters from where these dead baby calves are discarded?

In her speech at Strathmore on Aug. 5, Premier Smith referenced a clean and safe environment for all Albertans.

We have many, many more questions on how the decision was reached regarding such a contentious project. In the weeks and months to come, we will be asking many more questions if they feel this decision is appropriate.

Respectfully,  
Tony Watfa  
Ardenode/Nightingale  
Concerned Citizens



# Terry Fox Run gearing up for annual event in Strathmore

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As the time of year once again nears, the team behind the Strathmore Terry Fox Run is gearing up to host the event, and break their fundraising record.

The event will be held Sept. 17, in Kinsmen Park, as run organizer Diana Baird explained, that location seemed to work well for participants last year.

“We will be doing a 1 km loop around Kinsmen Park, and a 5 km run, which will be the initial 1 km loop and then an additional 4 km loop going up and around Grey Park,” she said. “It is essentially the same course as what we did last year.”

The Terry Fox Run as an event is also borrowing a set of games and activities from the Strathmore Municipal Library for folks in attendance to enjoy following the run.

Baird added the Terry Fox Run team has received significant help from the Strathmore Run Club, and several local businesses in regards to food and refreshments.

“The hardest part is to get people to sign up ahead of time online so that we know how many people are coming so that we can prepare for them,” said Baird.

The majority of fundraising efforts for the Terry Fox Run in Strathmore are done online, which is then forwarded to the Terry Fox Foundation. In addition to accepting donations, the team is also selling a variety of shirts as an additional

avenue for fundraising.

Those who donate online will immediately also be issued a tax receipt for their contribution. An attendee who donates in person will also be issued a receipt, though it will be mailed to them instead of received digitally.

“I only have last year’s (fundraising) numbers; between ... the online and what we did at the live event, we raised over \$10,000. I think that has probably been the highest amount that we have done so far,” said Baird. “This year, I have a really ambitious goal. I checked with the town to find out what is our actual population ... why not go for Terry’s dream and get \$1 for every person from Strathmore. Last year’s total population was 15,189.”

Baird hopes to see businesses or groups of people making group donations and putting together teams to take on group challenges in order to help hit the donation goal this year.

Additionally, Baird is aiming to raise awareness regarding the “Terry Fox Friends,” being people who have been involved with cancer personally — having either survived it, or who are currently undergoing treatments.

Those among that demographic can order a red t-shirt online, free of charge, so as to show the population of those who have been afflicted with cancer.

Those who are interested in signing up and/ or donating for the Strathmore event are able to do so online ([run.terryfox.ca/28948](http://run.terryfox.ca/28948)).



### Upcoming Meetings

Council and committee meetings will now be open to the public and via teleconference. For public hearings it is strongly encouraged that you attend in person.

- September 5: Council Meeting**
- September 12: Municipal Planning Commission**
- September 19: Council Meeting**

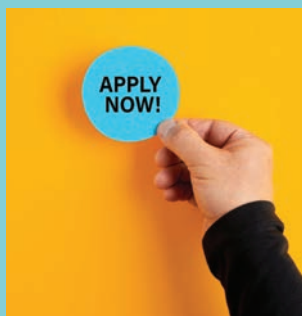
To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted. Agenda packages can be found on our website.

### Wheatland County Community Enhancement Regional Board

Wheatland County invites applications for membership on the Community Enhancement Regional Board (CERB) with appointment to commence November 01, 2023. One representative from each of Electoral Division will be appointed. The Community Enhancement Regional Board consists of two members from each Electoral Division, appointed by Wheatland County Council. Membership on the CERB is appointed for a two-year term with alternating expiry dates. The Community Enhancement Regional Board meets three times every spring to evaluate applications and decide on the allocation of Community Enhancement Funding to Wheatland County community groups.

**Application Deadline: September 30**

For more information, or to submit a letter of interest, please contact Jessica Salmon at 403-361-2021 or via email at [jessica.salmon@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:jessica.salmon@wheatlandcounty.ca).



The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board invites students pursuing post-secondary education in agriculture or environmental science to apply for the ASB Bursary! Up to \$6000 in bursaries are awarded annually, ranging from \$500 to \$1500 based on the number of eligible applicants.

### ASB BURSARY



Application packages are available at the Wheatland County Administration Office or online at [wheatlandcounty.ca](http://wheatlandcounty.ca). For more information, contact Michelle Van Haarlem at 403-361-2000 or [agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca).

**Application Deadline: September 15**

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### Environmental Stewardship Awards

Are you aware of any outstanding individuals in our County who deserve recognition for their remarkable contributions to environmental stewardship and innovation? Whether they are community members, landowners, or inspiring youth, it's time to shine a spotlight on their exceptional efforts.

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**First faire**

Strathmore's first Renaissance Faire was hosted Aug. 18-20 at the Strathmore Ag grounds. The weekend was packed full of events and activities themed around ye olden days, including jousting, armoured duels, magic, dancing, artisan vendors, a Viking camp display and more. The team behind the event migrated to Strathmore after outgrowing their previous venue in Calgary and were looking to expand what the faire had to offer.

**John Watson Photos**

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**Tuesday, September 5**

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# Sunflower field opens to public adjacent to the Legacy Barn

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Western District Historical Society opened the sunflower field behind the legacy barn for public visitation, Aug. 16, kicking off the fifth year of operation.

“We are not calling it a grand opening; it is just the first night of the sunflower field visits. We are not announcing a bunch of dates just because the heat and a few bugs have

taken a bit of a toll on our field,” said Darlene Domaschuk, sunflower field project lead with the Western District Historical Society.

She explained the field will be open for photo opportunities sporadically throughout the remainder of the summer and into autumn for people to drop in free of charge.

Though the flowers are not as tall this year as they have historically been, Domaschuk said the field makes for an excellent place to capture some unique and visually interesting photos.

“History says sunflowers were planted here which were fed to the cattle,” she said. “We are just doing a small replica of what could have been here years ago, and if we do open the barn on the next visit, there are pictures inside of the farmers doing a sunflower harvest with plants which were 10 to 12 feet high. We have four, six, eight-foot sunflowers in our garden.”

According to Domaschuk, public visits to the sunflower field have been steadily growing year after year when openings are hosted.

She added visitors are also allowed to cut sunflowers to take home during the harvest, later in the year, which

typically attracts lineups of people.

“The big event is really when we have our harvest and we open the field up and people can come and cut as many sunflowers as they want. That is when the driveways are lined up and people just kind of go crazy,” she said. “At this point, we do not know when that is going to be, but we will certainly give the public a week’s notice.”

Though the Historical Society does not charge during operational days for the field, a donation box is present at the gate when people arrive.

This year, folks who donate may also fill out a ballot to be entered for a digital photograph, captured by one of the Historical Society’s members. A winner will be selected after roughly three or four operational nights.

Domaschuk added given the size of the team, it is decided year by year whether the project will continue, as they do not have a lot of manpower to maintain the field.

The Historical Society team also plans to host a pumpkin-themed event near the end of the growing season, and will announce more information closer to their planned occasion.



  
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**Hope escape room**

The Hope Community Covenant Church hosted an Escape Room on Aug. 16 for students from Grades 7-12. Approximately 30 participants were broken up into groups of 5-6 and had to find clues to move from each of the eight different rooms.

Joe Lepage Photos

# County approves land use redesignation of De Havilland development

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The next step in the development of De Havilland's aircraft campus has been approved by the county, as amendments to land use bylaws 2022-28 and 2022-29.

The former, amending the West Highway 1 Area Structure Plan, was geared towards making textual amendments revising figures and maps and appending the De Havilland Field area concept plan.

2022-29 was proposing to redesignate the subject lands from agricultural general district, to direct control district. The bylaws were presented during the Aug. 15 regular meeting of Wheatland County council concurrently, as they were dependent on one another to pass in order for the ultimate project to continue.

A report detailing the amendments is included in the council agenda for the meeting date, which is publicly available.

Wheatland County council voted to approve the bylaw amendments, which have adjusted the details referring to the land parcels which are planned to be occupied by De Havilland, and allows the applicant to establish and utilize temporary storage of materials on the land for purposes such as moving parts and equipment to the site prior to construction.

Council voted on the bylaws following a public hearing, during which support and opposition were heard from members of surrounding residences and communities.

The county stressed these approvals do not represent the final approvals of the facilities and campus, and there will be more opportunities for planning, discussion, and for the community to speak on the matter prior to the beginning of construction.

"It's a game changer, this really brings the growth and the awareness to this region that is needed for so long," said Scott Silva, director of business development for the Legacy Farm project. "What is happening out here is really going to set the bar for the next 50 years and beyond to come."

Not everyone is on board. "What about agriculture? Just a couple of years ago the county wrote a municipal development plan on preserving farmland and agriculture and the agricultural way of life," said Ron Heckle, a speaking member of the surrounding community. "All of a sudden big business comes around flashing their money and you immediately forget about that plan that you wrote."

The subject lands in question are approximately 1557.92 acres in size, located roughly 11 kilometers west of the Town of Strathmore, consisting of parcels on both sides of Highway 1.

The plan area currently consists of cultivated agricultural lands with intermittent water courses, ephemeral water bodies, and marshes distributed throughout the area. Surrounding lands are designated for industrial uses, with

some agricultural and residential parcels located south and to the northeast.

The De Havilland campus is proposed to consist of an aircraft assembly facility, parts manufacturing and distribution centre, maintenance and repair, overhaul facility, runway, and associated commercial and industrial uses.

Other concerns which were brought forward by the local community included a decreased quality of life for nearby residents, questions regarding direct benefits to Wheatland County residents from the presence of the campus, job creation specifics, pollution, noise, stormwater drainage, and potential flooding.

De Havilland, during their time to speak, made efforts to address the concerns of residents and community members, and aimed to reassure people the facility development would not turn nightmarish for their future neighbors.

Near the conclusion of the discussion, Reeve

Amber Link spoke about the difficulty present in balancing the county's priorities and the toll it has taken attempting to manage the potentially titanic development within the county.

"Our farmers need our roads, they need them to be in good condition, and our ratepayers expect it. And we knew that in order to do that, going into the future we needed to diversify the economy," she said. "Agricultural taxation is highly regulated, and even though the vast majority of our land is agricultural, it doesn't generate a proportional amount of taxes, and I support that and understand the rationale for that, but in order to be sustainable we needed to take action."

More information regarding the bylaw amendments is included within the Aug. 15 county agenda, and the discussions heard during the regular meeting of council are documented for public viewing as part of the meeting recording, published on the county's YouTube channel.

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**Rolling through town**

The Rolling Barrage made its way through Strathmore on Aug. 16 while going coast to coast to raise awareness for PTSD. The rolling fundraiser is in support of veterans, active-duty military and first responders to build strength and unity to conquer the stigma of PTSD. There were 138 registered bikers taking part in this portion of the ride, stretching from Medicine Hat to Okotoks, which included a stop in Strathmore. The ride began on Aug. 1 in St. John's, N.L. and finished in Vancouver, B.C. on Aug. 19.

Lisa Frankemolle Photos



**Rodeo school**

The Strathmore and District Agricultural Society hosted their annual rodeo school on Aug. 14-17 at the Ag grounds. Over 50 participants from all over Alberta and even as far away as B.C. took part in the school. The bareback, saddle bronc and breakaway roping ran Aug. 14-15, while the bull riding, bull fighting and barrel racing events went Aug. 16-17.

Joe Lepage Photos

*Obituary*



**PINTO,**  
*Florinda Das Condeias*  
*Cara De Anjo Godinho*  
January 25, 1949  
- August 15, 2023

It is with our hearts completely broken that we announce the passing of Florinda Pinto, Loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. At Sagewood Lodge on the 15th day of August 2023.

Florinda's Life was one filled with love, resilience, and a deep connection to her family. Born January 25th, 1949, to her loving parents Ermelinda Rosa Lecoq Godinho and Jose Valez Godinho, in Portalegre Alentejo, Portugal. Growing up from the age of 9 months old in Luanda, Angola, Africa until the age of 25. It was there that she met the love of her life Fernando Manuel Matos Pinto in Collegiate School. On May 13, 1972, they married and soon after would start their family of 7 beautiful children.

After Having their first two daughters, both Florinda and Fernando fled their home in Angola, Africa due to a civil war. They would go on to have four more children between 1975 and 1981 in their home country of Portugal. Later in 1981 the opportunity to immigrate to Canada presented itself and with that, they landed in Edmonton, Alberta with their children. After living in Edmonton for a short time, they moved once again to British Columbia where they would welcome their last, but not least child in Vancouver. They then settled in Oliver, British Columbia until 1995. During their time in Oliver, Florinda worked in agriculture among various other business ventures, including owning a pizza shop and thrift store, while raising her family. She enjoyed baking, making cheese, and canning vegetables. She was an excellent crafter of crochet and especially enjoyed needle point.

Moving to Lethbridge, Alberta in 1995 Florinda would accomplish her dream of becoming a Health Care Aid through the Lethbridge Community College. She then worked at Piyami Lodge in Picture Butte, Alberta from 2001 until her retirement in 2008. Florinda cared for many community members and was a natural caregiver, with deep connections to those she cared for. By 2020 Florinda and Fernando officially moved to their new home in Rockyford, Alberta to be closer to their now, adult children and grandchildren. Being apart of the most important days such as graduations, weddings, new babies, and holidays.

Florinda was an extraordinary woman; she had a quiet courage and gentle nature. We will miss her smile, her beautiful soulful singing voice, and especially her food. Our mother was our home.

Florinda is predeceased by her parents, Ermelinda Rosa Lecoq Godinho and Jose Velez Godinho. Sisters; Rita Godinho Bastos and Luiza Godinho Proença. Brother; Jose Godinho. Her In-laws; Maria Irene Pinto and Jose Pereira Pinto.

Left to grieve her loss, her loving Husband Fernando Manuel Matos Pinto, after 50 years of Marriage. Her Loving Children; Paula (Brand) Beekman, Ana (Peter) Velthuis, Silvia Pinto (Scott), Pedro (Lisa) Pinto, Fernando Pinto (Heidi), Sara Pinto (Travis), and Miriam (Mohammad)Aoude Pinto. As well as her 17 Grandchildren, 5 Great Grandchildren, extended family, and many foster grandchildren, she loved us all deeply. Also leaving behind her siblings in Portugal; Palmira (Ondino) Rodrigues, Maria Jose (Joao) Igreja, Antonio Godinho, and Maria Fatima.

We would like to thank the Strathmore Hospital staff, Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Sader, the Sagewood Lodge Staff, Bam, Home Care, The Adult Day Program and those who have continued to help and care for her over the years.

In lieu of flowers, on behalf of our family, we kindly ask to consider making a donation to the Calgary Zoo, in remembrance of our beautiful Florinda, who had a strong love for animals, and especially her favourite 'macacas' (monkeys).

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Or a donation to the Strathmore and District Health Services: Adult Day Program.

A funeral service was held on Monday, August 21, 2023 at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Rockyford, at 11:00 am.

To send condolences, please visit Florinda's obituary at [www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca](http://www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca)

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**Upcoming Council Meetings**

- September 6, 2023 | 6pm Regular Council Meeting
- September 13, 2023 | 6pm Committee of the Whole
- September 20, 2023 | 6pm Regular Council Meeting

**Want to speak at a Council Meeting?**

Members of the public are welcome to speak at Council or Committee of the Whole Meetings during the Public Comments or Public Hearing portion of the meeting. Learn how at [Strathmore.ca/CouncilMeetings](http://Strathmore.ca/CouncilMeetings)



**Summer fire safety**

Strathmore is under a Fire Advisory. This means you can still have a BBQ or use your fire pit, but please remember to follow the safety guidelines in place.

Visit [Strathmore.ca/FirePits](http://Strathmore.ca/FirePits) to learn more about fire pit safety.

**School is almost in!**

School resumes on September 5 for both the Golden Hills School Division and Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools. Now is a great time to start making a mental note of locations with school zones – and mark your calendars for when school zones come into full effect on September 5.

School Zones are in effect the following times on school days:

- 8 to 9:30 a.m.
- 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Playground Zones remain in effect from 8:30 a.m. to one hour after sunset. If you're driving through a school or playground zone, slow down and keep an eye out for children.

Thanks for driving safely and looking out for our students!

**Aquatic Centre Shut Down**

The Strathmore Aquatic Centre has scheduled a maintenance shut down for August 31. The pool will be closed while staff and contractors take care of routine maintenance and specialized cleaning. We'll be providing updates about the facility reopening at [Strathmore.ca](http://Strathmore.ca), when they become available.

**Council is back in Session.**

Public are welcome to attend the meeting in person or watch meetings online under the "live" tab on the Town of Strathmore's YouTube channel.



Would you like to speak or present at a council meeting? Residents can comment on agenda items or present to Council by submitting a delegation form. Register to speak, present, or **learn more at [Strathmore.ca/councilmeetings](http://Strathmore.ca/councilmeetings)**.

**When can you water?**

Southern Alberta has been experiencing dry conditions and record low natural flow levels on the Bow and Elbow Rivers. On August 15, the City of Calgary issued Stage 1 mandatory outdoor water restrictions and since Strathmore's water supply comes from Calgary, we've adopted these restrictions too.

Environment Canada is predicting a warm and dry winter, and these measures will help proactively manage Calgary and Strathmore's water supply needed in the Glenmore Reservoir. It also supports river health and our neighbours downstream who depend on the river.

Please note that drinking water quality remains high; this is an issue of water quantity, not quality.

**During Stage 1 Outdoor Water Use Restrictions, as outlined in the Water Utility Bylaw, the following outdoor watering activities are permitted:**

- Using a sprinkler to water lawns, gardens, trees and shrubs is limited to one day per week according to a specific schedule that is determined by property address
- Property address ending with an even number can water on Wednesday or Saturday.
- Property address ending with an odd number can water on Thursday or Sunday.
- Watering is limited to a maximum total of two hours from 4am – 10am or 5pm – 10 p.m. Always check soil moisture first and use only the water that is needed.

**On any day and at any time:**

- Watering using handheld watering can or hose with shut-off spray.
- Watering new grass or seed.
- Filling an outdoor pool or hot tub.
- Using water collected in a rain barrel.
- Watering for construction purposes such as grading, compaction or dust control.

**The following outdoor watering activities are not allowed:**

- Washing outdoor surfaces, windows, exterior building surfaces, sidewalks, driveways or walkways. As an alternative, use a broom to clean hard surfaces.
- Washing a car on a driveway or street.
- Filling fountains or decorative features.

**There are exceptions for health and safety reasons or core business needs:**

- Washing outdoor surfaces for childcare facilities, food and beverage establishments and kennel and animal care facilities.
- Washing vehicles to follow health and safety regulations.
- Watering plants, shrubs, and trees for sale.
- Exterior window washing and car washing provided by a business with a license to provide these services.



**TRASH TO TREASURE  
SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2023**

Trash to Treasure Days encourage residents to put any usable items out prior to the Heavy Item Garbage collection so others can pick them up and give them a new home.

Donators:

- Mark your unwanted but reusable items with an HIG tag and place at same location you would place items for HIG collection.
- At the end of the Trash to Treasure Days remove any items you want to keep
- Leave items out that you want collected during HIG week

Collectors:

- Take only items marked with a HIG tag
- Respect others' properties
- Do not discard unwanted items on another resident's lawn

**HEAVY ITEM GARBAGE  
SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2023**

HIG returns the week of September 18-22! Place all items at your regular garbage pickup location by 7 a.m. on September 18 and affix with an HIG or mattress sticker. Stickers are available for free at the Strathmore Municipal Building anytime prior to April 17.

Examples of HIG Items:

- Washers, dryers, dishwashers, and stoves
- Furniture (sofas, love seats, tables, chairs, dressers etc.)
- Mattresses, bed frames, and box springs
- Carpet (must be rolled and no longer than 4ft)
- Separated/salvageable metal materials (small quantity)
- Small amounts of lumber (4ft length, bundled and tied)
- BBQs (propane removed)

Learn more about HIG or Trash to Treasure at [Strathmore.ca/HIG](http://Strathmore.ca/HIG)